

## Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Eliza Symonds Bell, April 20, 1877, with transcript

Letter written by Alexander Graham Bell to his Mother. Boston — April 20th, 1877. Private.  
Dear Mama:

I forgot to ask you in my letter posted tonight whether you have any remedy for extreme itchiness of the skin. I suffer so much from itchiness that I am afraid I must be threatened with some skin disease. It is so bad that I scratch myself in my sleep evidently — for the skin is all raw and bleeding on my left thigh — and I find it beginning to show in other parts of my body.

I observed some discolorations on my left arm a few days ago — like the marks of bruises — and now the arm is inflamed by scratching I cannot control. Otherwise I am quite well — never was better.

What do you advise? Shall I see a doctor? I observe discolorations appearing on other parts of my body.

Your affectionate son, Alec. All I do is to sponge myself every morning and evening. I fancy that relieves the itchiness — and theoretically should place the skin in the best and healthiest condition.